

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated June 13, 2006. Claims 138 to 153 are pending in the application, of which Claims 138, 142, 146, 150 and 152 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 17 and 53 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 because the claimed invention is allegedly directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Claims 1 to 5 and 35 to 41 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,580,177 (Gase) in view of 5,410,754 (Klotzbach). Claims 6 to 12, 16 to 29, 31, 34, 42 to 48, 52 to 66, 70 to 73, 77 to 81, 85 and 86 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over Gase. Claims 13 to 15, 30, 32, 33, 49 to 51, 67 to 69, 74 to 76 and 82 to 84 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Gase in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,337,258 (Dennis). Claims 138 to 153 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,172,244 (Nakahara) in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,905,098 (Sakata). Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

Regarding Claims 1 to 86, as Claims 1 to 86 have been canceled. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections of these claims.

Regarding Claim 138, amended independent Claim 138 is directed to an output control apparatus operable to communicate with an information processing apparatus via a network. The apparatus includes print counting means for counting a print count value indicating a number of prints in response to delivery of a print sheet printed; trouble counting means for counting a trouble count value indicating a number of print troubles when a print trouble occurs; determination means for determining whether or not

the print count value counted by the print counting means reaches a predetermined value; transmission control means for, if the determination means determines that the print count value counted by the print counting means reaches the predetermined value, controlling transmission of trouble data including the trouble count value counted until the print count value reaches the predetermined value to the information processing apparatus such that the information processing apparatus recognizes the trouble count value indicating the number of troubles counted until the print count value reaches the predetermined value at the output control apparatus; and initialization means for, if the determination means determines that the print count value counted by the print counting means reaches the predetermined value, initializing the trouble count value. The transmission control means and the initialization means repeatedly perform transmission control and initialization, respectively, whenever said determination means determines that the print count value counted by said print counting means reaches the predetermined value.

In contrast, Nakahara discloses a digital copier having a single image reader and a plurality of image writers which are cooperatively associated with each other, (column 1, lines 9 to 11 of Nakahara). While Nakahara discloses displaying troubles such as a paper jam, (column 3, lines 55 to 64 of Nakahara), Nakahara is silent on counting a trouble count value indicating a number of print troubles when a print trouble occurs.

Additionally, Sakata discloses a copier with which a facsimile mechanism may be combined as desired and a method of switching between a copy mode and a facsimile mode, (column 1, lines 6 to 17 of Sakata). While Sakata discloses allowing a total counter to show the total number of papers fed and a facsimile counter showing the number of papers handled by the facsimile mechanism, (column 11, lines 18 to 34 of

Sakata), Sakata is silent on a transmission control means controlling transmission of trouble data including the trouble count value counted until the print count value reaches the predetermined value to the information processing apparatus.

Thus, Nakahara and Sakata, neither alone nor in combination, disclose or suggest all of the features of amended independent Claim 138. In light of this deficiency in Nakahara and Sakata, Applicant submits that amended independent Claim 138 is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same..

Amended independent Claims 142, 146, 150, and 152 are a method, medium, system, and system method, respectively, corresponding to the apparatus of Claim 138. Therefore, Applicant submits that Claims 142, 146, 150, and 152 are now in condition for Allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

The other pending claims in this application are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed allowable for the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.